

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT – ALTURAS FIELD OFFICE

**CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION DOCUMENTATION**

**A. Background**

BLM Office: Alturas Field Office LLCAN02000

Lease/ Serial Case File No.: DOI-BLM-CA-N020-2010-09

Proposed Action Title/Type: Cassel Fire Fence Replacement

Location of Proposed Action: The project area is located in Shasta County, California: Mount Diablo Base and Meridian; Township 36 North, Range 4 East, Section 25; Township 36 North, Range 5 East, Sections 19 and 30 (Exhibit A).

Description of Proposed Action: Removal and replacement of approximately three miles of fence which was severely damaged as a result of the Cassel Fire (#EX1K- Shasta Unit Lightning Complex) which occurred in August of 2009. The fences will be built to Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Manual H-1741-1 specifications and exclude livestock grazing from the burned area during a required two year rest period to allow the vegetation to recover from the effects of the wildfire.

**B. Land Use Plan Conformance**

This action conforms to the Alturas Resource Management Plan (RMP) and Record of Decision (ROD), approved on April 17, 2008 because it is specifically provided for or is clearly consistent with RMP objectives and decisions.

**C. Compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act**

The Proposed Action is categorically excluded from further documentation under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) in accordance with H-1790-1-National Environmental Policy Act Handbook;

*Appendix 3, page 145:*

**1.13-** Post-fire rehabilitation activities not to exceed 4,200 acres (such as tree planting, fence replacement, habitat restoration, repair of roads and trails, and repair of damage to minor facilities such as campgrounds) to repair and improve lands unlikely to recover to a management approved condition from Wildland fire damage, or to repair or replace minor facilities damaged by fire. Such activities: Shall be conducted consistent with agency and Departmental procedures and applicable land and resource management plans; shall not include the use of herbicides or pesticides or the construction of new permanent roads or other new permanent infrastructure; and shall be completed within three years following a Wildland fire.

*Appendix 4, page 153:*

**I. Emergency Stabilization**

Planned action in response to wildfires, floods, weather events, earthquakes, or landslips that threaten public health or safety, property, and/or natural and cultural resources and that are necessary to repair or improve lands unlikely to recover to management-approved condition as a result of the event. Such activities shall be limited to: repair and installation of essential erosion control structures; replacement or

### Review of Extraordinary Circumstances

The Department of the Interior Manual 516 2.3A (3) requires review of the following “extraordinary circumstances” (516 DM 2 Appendix 2) to determine if an otherwise categorically excluded action would require additional environmental analysis/documentation.

#### Would the proposed action: (YES or NO)

1. Have significant impacts on public health or safety.

☐ Yes ☒ No

Date: 2/4/2010

Comments:

2. Have significant impacts on such natural resources and unique geographic characteristics as historic or cultural resources; park, recreation or refuge lands; wilderness areas; wild or scenic rivers; national natural landmarks; sole or principal drinking water aquifers; prime farmlands; wetlands (Executive Order 11990); floodplains (Executive Order 11988); national monuments; migratory birds; and other ecologically significant or critical areas.

☐ Yes ☒ No

Date: 2/4/2010-DJS

comments: Area of Potential Effect (APE) was subjected to an archaeological survey on September 29, 2009. No historic or prehistoric cultural resources were discovered within the APE.

3. Have highly controversial environmental effects or involve unresolved conflicts concerning alternatives uses of available resources [NEPA Section 102(2) (E)].

☐ Yes ☒ No

Date: 2/4/2010

Comments:

4. Have highly uncertain and potentially significant environmental effects or involve unique or unknown environmental risks.

☐ Yes ☒ No

Date: 2/4/2010

Comments:

5. Establish a precedent for future action or represent a decision in principle about future actions with potentially significant environmental effects.

☐ Yes ☒ No

Date:

Comments:

6. Have a direct relationship to other actions with individually insignificant but cumulatively significant environmental effects.

☐ Yes ☒ No

Date: 2/4/2010

Comments:

7. Have significant impacts on properties listed, or eligible for listing, on the National Register of Historic Places as determined by either the bureau or office.

☐ Yes ☒ No

Reviewer:

